

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
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C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 12480

DEPT PASS HEW FOR FISCHER

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: TGEN, TBIO, SHUM, SCUL
SUBJECT: US-USSR HEALTH AGREEMENT: SOVIET REPLY TO
CANCELLATION OF US CANCER CHEMOTHERAPY AND CANCER
IMMUNOLOGY DELEGATIONS

REF: (A) STATE 138261, (B) MOSCOW 12078, (C) MOSCOW 11618

1. ON JUNE 2 EMBASSY RECEIVED COPY OF TELEX (DATED
JUNE 1) SENT FROM MINISTRY OF HEALTH (MOH) TO HEW
CONCERNING THE CANCELLATION OF THE US CANCER IMMUNOLOGY
AND CANCER CHEMOTHERAPY DELEGATIONS (REF A). EMBASSY
RECEIVED TELEX WITH REGULAR COPIES OF MOH-HEW
TELEXES ROUTINELY PROVIDED BY MOH EACH FRIDAY. FOR
INFORMATION OF DEPT AND OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES INFORMAL
EMBASSY TRANSLATION OF THE TELEX FOLLOWS PARA TWO BELOW.

2. 03.0302

TRAPEZNIKOV-TERRY
YOUR 823 P.1
WE REGRET THAT THE DELEGATION OF AMERICAN IMMUNOLOGISTS
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ADOPTED A DECISION TO POSTPONE THEIR VISIT TO THE USSR
TO DISCUSS THE RESULTS OF THE YEAR'S COOPERATION IN THE
AREA OF IMMUNOLOGY AND TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CONFERENCES;
MOTIVATING THEIR DECISION BY A POLITICAL STATEMENT WHICH
IS OPEN INTERFERENCE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF OUR
COUNTRY. WE REGRET THAT THE SCIENTIFIC INTERESTS ABOUT
WHICH THE AMERICAN SPECIALISTS DISPLAYED CONTINUAL

CONCERN, PUTTING THEM HIGHER THAN POLITICAL, HAVE IN THIS INSTANCE BEEN TRANSFORMED INTO VICTIMS OF PURELY POLITICAL SPECULATION. THIS DECISION OF THE DELEGATION WILL DAMAGE (NANOCIT VRED) SOVIET-AMERICAN COOPERATION IN THE AREA OF ONCOLOGY AND ALL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE CONSEQUENCES OF THIS STEP BELONG TO THE AMERICAN SIDE. CONSIDERING YOUR SPECIAL INTEREST IN THE PROBLEM OF HUMAN RIGHTS, WE RECOMMEND THAT YOU DIRECT YOUR ENERGY, IN THE FIRST INSTANCE, TO THE SOLUTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEMS IN YOUR COUNTRY.

3. COMMENT: THE SHARP MOH TELEX IS THE FIRST WRITTEN RESPONSE TO A DELEGATION CANCELLATION BECAUSE OF THE ORLOV CONVICTION. WHILE MOH HAS BEEN PARTICULARLY STUNG BY THE POSTPONEMENT OF SECRETARY CALIFANO'S VISIT, WE FIND IT SIGNIFICANT THAT IT IS THE ONLY MINISTRY ON RECORD AS THREATENING THE TERMINATION OF A US DELEGATION VISIT BECAUSE OF DELEGATION'S "POLITICAL STATEMENTS" (REF C), EVEN BEFORE THE CALIFANO VISIT WAS POSTPONED. MOH IS NOW FIRST IN THREATENING BROADER RETALIATION, IN LINE WITH ITS TRADITIONAL HARD-LINE STANCE ON POLITICAL MATTERS. AT THIS POINT WE TEND TO THINK THAT THE THREAT IS A BLUFF, IN VIEW OF THE CONSIDERABLE TECHNICAL BENEFITS THAT MOH DERIVES THE BILATERAL. HOWEVER, ONLY TIME WILL TELL. MATLOCK

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